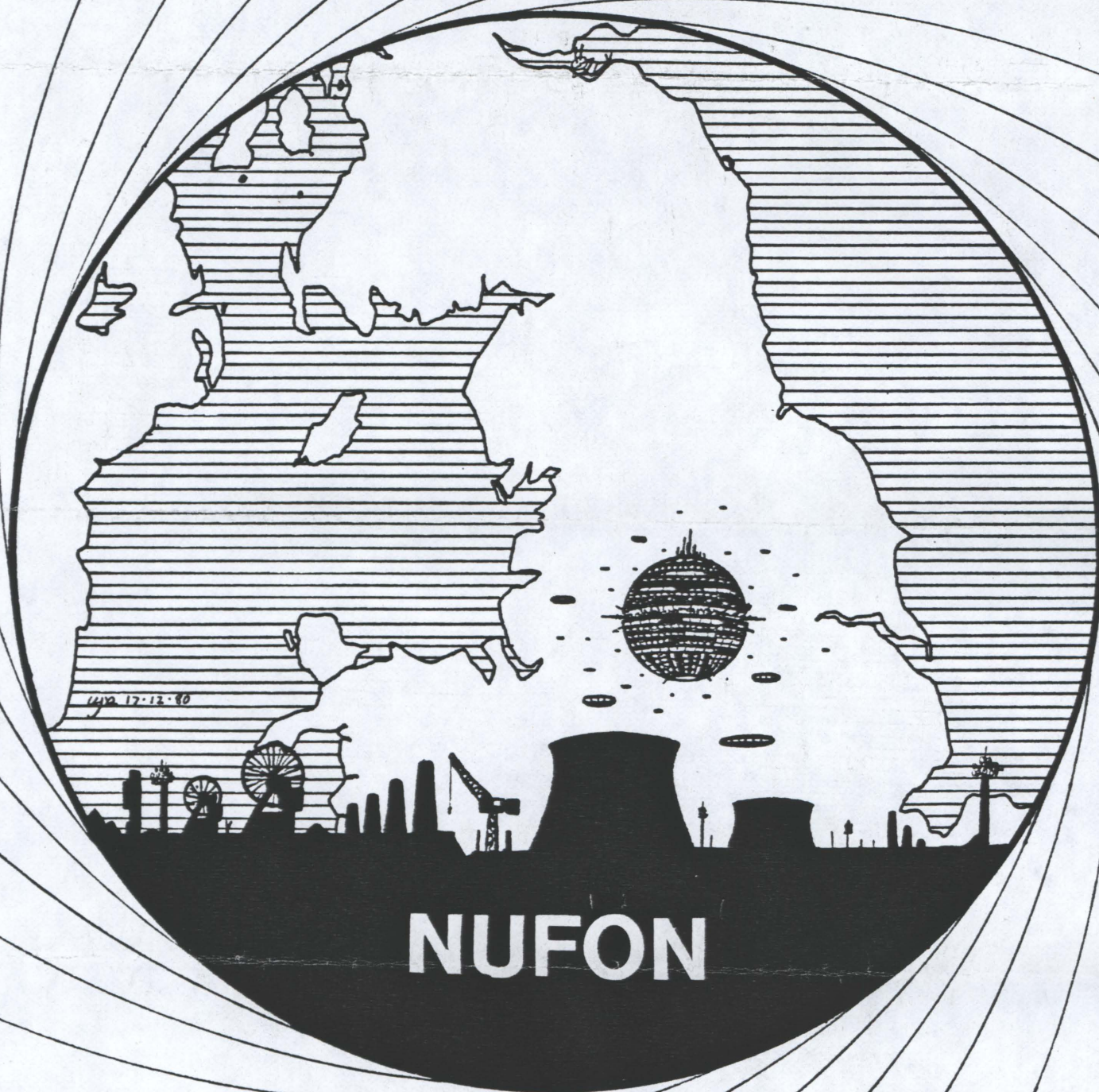


NORTHERN UFO NETWORK



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 GUEST EDITORIAL: "Methinks the lady doth protest too much" Dr Robert Morrell

If indignation and annoyance were adequate substitutes for hard facts I should now be appealing to Ms Randles for a supply of sackcloth whilst besmirching myself liberally with ashes, prior to making a pilgrimage of penance ending at the front door of the society for psychical research. However, despite all the fury emanating from the March editorial I remain unmoved in respect to the charges I made against NUFON.

Organisations and individuals are free to follow whatever beliefs they wish, and if this includes anti-scientific paranormalism that is their privilege. But such freedom does not extend to NUFON, for this is not a group but a free association of groups that between them reflect a wide diversity of opinion. It is important then that this fact not only be recognised but be seen to be in practice. Unfortunately, this ideal came close to breaking down in 1980, and this fact cannot be concealed through the use of emotive terminology such as "witch-hunt".

Pseudo-science, such as parapsychology, will always have a certain attractiveness and I would be last to claim that they do not offer certain areas of research which might produce results of value, but it is vital to remain on guard and relate them to alternative explanations produced by the work of orthodox scholars. It was largely because of the failure of the 1980 Birmingham conference to do this that I described it as unscientific. Nothing has convinced me I was in error.

Cases concerning claims of contact with entities are almost commonplace in Ufological literature. We cannot avoid examining them, and so there can be no dispute as to the theme of the conference, but if the papers presented exclude detailed coverage of subjects such as dream psychology, the technique, method and limits of regression hypnosis and the factors that formulate belief systems, the coverage is so one-sided as to be extreme, and it is no substitute for lack of balance to argue these subjects were mentioned in certain papers. NUFON has repeatedly urged the need for ufological research to be firmly scientific, yet we saw this ideal sacrificed and paranormalism permitted to run riot. As the person vested with administration responsibility by NUFON, Ms Randles cannot escape censor for allowing such a situation to arise, more particularly as these objections were made in advance. This failure cannot be ignored as of no account.

But the 1980 conference was by no means NUFON's only failure that year, for several issues of its two journals gave undue stress to paranormalist concepts. However, these minor lapses pale into insignificance when set against the now notorious June 1980 Northern Ufology, which was an almost unqualified apology for paranormalism, often of the most extreme form completely devoid of supporting evidence. As editor, Ms Randles, has the responsibility of ensuring a balanced presentation, even if that means asking for specific contributions if (as in this case) she knows there to be a clear imbalance. In fact a reply, sent later, was fated not to appear. Ms Randles maintains, probably correctly, that she appealed for contributors, and none-supporters of paranormalism did not respond. That some people might not have seen these requests does not seem to have occurred to her. As editor Randles described herself in the 1980 UFOIN membership list as a "paranormal researcher", as distinct from ufologist, one cannot resist the thought that her personal interest in the subject was permitted to over-ride the need to maintain correct balance.

1980 is history and 1981 has seen NUFON adopt a committee. Hopefully, this will not to curb extremes, whether intentional or accidental, but if this "new start" fails I fear NUFON will disintegrate, as it most certainly came close to last year. Ms Randles must know that NUFOIS was not the only group to feel alarm at this drift towards naked paranormalism. If there is any bias, it should be in one direction only, towards science.

Comment (by J.R.): This raises important points, most specifically the last paragraph. Bob implies other groups feel strongly, as he does, on this issue, yet none have expressed such comments (either directly or indirectly). If Bob is right, and you do see a lack of balance, please say so. It is important we know your views.

I will make some quick comments. In a one-day seminar there are natural limits to what can be done. The purpose was to get ufologists together discussing their latest work on CE4 experiences. I believe this took place. It is true we had no papers on dream psychology. But such an interesting project, as Bob suggests, was well beyond our scope for that day. And where are these psychologists anyway?

Would they participate in a UFO conference? And how long would the conference have had to be? The conference was limited and did not claim to be overtly scientific, as in the context how could it be? Nobody is under illusions about what it didn't do, but Bob gives it no credit at all for what it did do.

Northern Ufology themes are random and varied. They are advertised at least twice in preceding issues. Since they ask for reader contributions how am I to cater for people who don't read it! Put an ad in New Scientist? Responses are never solicited and all contributions are published. Bob's subsequent article would have filled a whole issue of this newsletter, more or less. As the topic was over and we had moved onto something else (nothing to do with paranormalism!) all I could fairly do was offer to serialise it or publish in UFOINs longer, companion magazine, INVESTIGATION. I fail to see how this can be termed censorship.

Yes, I am a paranormal researcher, but in present context I am a ufologist. I have an open mind about possible correlations between UFOs and the paranormal, but see no harm in making this matter the subject of a debate. It somewhat disturbs me that Bob suggests I was responsible for the lack of balance (I can assure him I did not do this telepathically!) Of course the theme was controversial. That's why I chose it. None-controversial themes seem to be a little pointless. But, if anyone still wishes to argue the matter (for or against) I will gladly consider including their contributions in this publication.

I hope Bob sees this!.... A reminder that the theme for the JULY issue will be: VEHICLE INTERFERENCE; possible causes; effects, hypotheses etc.

NEWS ROUND-UP :: Welcome to a new group into the network. Known as the SSFR (Sheffield Society for Paranormal Research) they have been going one year, have regular meetings, have begun UFO investigations and are devising some projects. Their secretary might be useful in landings as she has a degree in biology and a Ph.D. in plant breeding. They are quite well equipped, I gather. Write to: Mrs Michele Clare 17 Old Quarry Ave Wales Sheffield S.Yorks S31 8RW.

:: Austrian ufologist Ernst Berger (Dr Alexander Keul), who has done some intriguing work on psychology and personality testing of UFO witnesses is visiting the UK in September. UFOIN member Ken Phillips is hoping to arrange an informal study group with him and would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in attending. (13 Falcon Ave, Springfield, Milton Keynes, MK6 3HQ)

:: Mark Brown (18 York Place, Agar Nook, Coalville, Leics LE6 3TH) is interested in the possible application of biorhythms to close encounter witnesses. If you have any ideas or comments forward them to him.

:: The North Devon group from MAUFOG have suggested a national "UFO action" week, where we could have a concerted effort to reach the public and appeal for funds. Any comments on this interesting idea?

:: PROBE, also of MAUFOG, recently visited the national archives because (according to the rules) on Jan 1 1981 some of the earliest UFO records should have been released. But guess what? They found someone had grouped them together into one document (UFO records 1951-1955), which will now be due for release in 1985. I wonder what will happen then! I think I can guess, can't you?

:: Sad news of the death of one of the north's pioneer ufologists. On March 25, as Bill Muir puts it, "J. Leslie Otley, the founder of TUFOS and editor of the now defunct magazine ORBIT... passed on to the higher life... His life touched many, many people." Condolences to friends and family.

:: Just a final reminder of the BUFORA Congress at the Mount Royal Hotel, London, on May 24/25. There's still time to book (£15 for the two days) c/o 7 Stratford Place London W1A 4YU.

MAKE A DATE FOR JUNE 6 THE NEXT CONFERENCE ***

June 6 is the date of the next one-day seminar. It is being organised by MUFORA and will run from 1 to 6 pm. An admission charge of 50p will be made to offset costs and it will be a "ufologists only" venture, not being publicised openly.

The venue will be the MITRE HOTEL which is on Cathedral Walk, central MANCHESTER.

The upper dining room has been reserved. The venue has the convenience of a central location (right by one of the city's most prominent landmarks - the Cathedral), adjacent to cinemas, eating places and shops (should your wife like to come and see the city's other attractions). It is 100 yards from the famous PIPS disco and the pub itself will be open 1-3 and from 7pm. So why not come along!

As for ufology there will be four short papers, as introductions to open debate (the main theme of the day). These will present the four main UFO hypotheses (ETH, paranormal, "ufos are psychological" and, intriguingly, "others" (!))

Lined up to introduce the debates are Bob Morrell, Peter Warrington, Jenny Randles and one other. Should be rather an interesting afternoon, and you're all welcome.

For directions, etc, contact MUFORA c/o Flat 2, 5 Silverdale Rd, Chorlton, Manchester M21 1SH (Tel: 061- 881 - 8562)

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH....FSR Vol 26 No 6 is out with an article based on JR's paper at the 1979 NUFON conference, subject "repeater witnesses" plus a review of the NUFOIS Derbyshire sightings. Excellent issue this one with a fine Stuart Cambell IFO exposee and a CE4 from a Russian army officer!...FORTEAN TIMES 34 Has all its usual gems and interesting articles on synchronicity and modern dinosaurs....MAGIC SAUCER Mar/Apr has lots of goodies, inc cartoons, sightings & stories (a delight to read)...Welcome back after a long absence to the much missed IRISH UFO NEWS No 8 has all the latest on Irish UFOs plus a fascinating review of an Irish radar case. NUFORO Bulletin (60 Charles Crescent, Lenzie, Kirkintilloch, Scotland G66 5HG) is a new duplicated news-sheet to note from ex BUFORA NIC Nigel Stephenson...finally SEARCH WEST publish their second issue with a lot of news from the USA, including how to build a UFO camera.

BEDTIME STORIES Review of "Are we being watched?" Angus & Robertson 1981
96pp illustrated £3.95 Authors: Janet & Colin Bord

A collection of UFO sightings, ranging from LITS to CE4s, from all over the world, with just one thing in common...the witnesses are all children. The stories are concise, lively and at times exciting. They rattle off the page like an express train; puzzling, amazing but finally repeating themselves. They will likely bring yawns to the seasoned investigator, but to a young child they may well prove enthralling...the sort of thing they will want read to them at bedtime (especially the scary ones!)

Since this is a book for children, as the cover makes abundantly clear, no pretensions are in evidence and perhaps we should leave it at that. What it sets out to do it does pretty well, but I must admit to certain reservations.

Whilst BUFORA and CONTACT are credited (and addresses given) there is not a whisper of NUFON or UFOIN, which is odd considering the authors relationship with us. True UFOIN is not a membership society and children will be best served by the national groups, but as many of the cases featured trace back to our groups a credit would not have gone amiss, surely? Still, that is a minor quibble.

But I am less happy about the scene reconstructions, which form a part of the book. An appreciable degree of artistic license has been allowed, and I have a feeling this might overstep the marks of acceptability. If one judges from P.65 where the Gaynor Sunderland CE3 is reconstructed (see cover of FSR Vol 25 No 3, which itself was not right but not wildly inaccurate) then doubt must exist. The caption (obviously a typographical error) is nonsensical, and the image bears far more relation to the imagination of the artist (which was not the Bords) than it does to Gaynor's claims. It shows a UFO nothing like what Gaynor saw, with added tall legs, a staircase underneath, unrecognisable entities (and two of them outside at once - which in fact never happened). Not even the witness could recognise her own UFO from this ludicrous effort (which, it should be said, does not even match the verbal description given in the text by the Bords).

Presumably these drawings were not proofread by the authors, and it concerns me that children are presented with images which (on this evidence) are far more mechanistic (bolts and rivets and all) than was ever claimed. Such a process might be perpetuated by other books, taking this as their source, and it is a fallacy to think that adults will not read this book. Of course they will, and it is such a neat production it will find its way into libraries. Had a small amount of space been devoted to giving sources, so those interested could refer back to the full factual reports, it would not have been so bad. As it is, well...?

No doubt the publishers were responsible, in no small way, for the problems. And I have a high regard for the Bords, who are highly respected researchers. Their work is normally of very high quality, but this (their first venture into UFO territory) leaves me, sad to say, just a little disappointed.

DEVELOPING A UFO CODE OF PRACTICE

On March 28 at the Nottingham HQ members of various NUFON and MAUFOG groups, a representative of CONTACT and the BUFORA Chairman had a lengthy and profitable meeting thrashing out a code of practice (or ethics) for UFO investigators. It is hoped that when agreement is reached all respectable UK investigators will sign this, and a list of "accredited investigators" will be formulated. Just what

will happen then has yet to be decided, but it may well involve the forming of a board of accreditation from all the organisations, to ensure investigators fulfill the code, as far as is practicable. This is a monumental and exciting step forward. The proposed code is included below. You are urged to consider it and comment in writing, with any ideas you might have. Jenny Randles is taking a subgroup on the topic at the BUFORA congress and the working party are meeting again in Swindon on June 13 to take the plan further. So try to comment by then.

A: Responsibility to the witness

- 1) The identity of all witnesses to UFO events shall remain confidential unless written consent is obtained from the witness to release such information.
 - a) The witness should be advised of the problems which may arise if this information is released.
- 2) Insofar as it is practical, all interviews shall be by prior appointment.
 - a) If the witness categorically and repeatedly refuses to cooperate in any way, he or she is not to be harassed further.
- 3) All interviews shall be recorded, unless the use of a recorder is objected to by the witness, or other responsible person in the case of a minor.
- 4) All interviews are to be conducted by two investigators, and in the event of the witness being a woman or child (under 15), it is desirable that one of the investigators shall be female. (NB: in certain cases it may not be possible for two investigators to be present and under such circumstances the report shall clearly indicate that only one investigator was present, and the reason why.)
- 5) Under no circumstances shall any investigator, or member of the investigating group, gain or attempt to gain admission to private property, other than by permission of the owner, tenant or authorised agent.
- 6) Any damage to property, caused by members of an investigating group during the course of an investigation, shall be made good by that group.
- 7) If, during an investigation, a situation is encountered which is, or is liable to become, dangerous to the general public, or result in damage to property, the investigator shall, WITHOUT DELAY, notify the police or other responsible body, and take all steps reasonable to protect public and property, but shall not be expected to protect property if to do so may result in undue risk to the investigator.
- 8) UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES shall Hypnosis be used during the interviewing of witnesses, other than by written consent of the witness, and any such aid shall be restricted to interviews conducted by fully qualified practitioners, under the guidance of a clinical psychologist.
 - a) An investigator shall not employ any technique of a potentially controversial nature (eg lie detectors), other than under the guidance of trained personnel.
- 9) The witness is entitled to be informed of the conclusions reached, if requested.

B: Responsibility to the public.

- 1) All investigators or members of investigating groups shall, so far as is practicable, cooperate fully with the police and any other official body in relation to UFO investigations (see also section A: 7)
- 2) No information gained during an interview shall be made available to the news media, other than by general agreement of the investigation group, or by permission of officers appointed by that group.
- 3) Investigators will not issue speculative statements to the news media.

C: Responsibility to ufology

- 1) The free flow of information shall not be restricted for personal gain.
- 2) Any information, confidential because of factors inherent within this code, shall not be made available in the report.
- 3) It is the duty of the investigator to make available all possible data, to all seriously concerned, but unnecessary speculation and bias should not be included in a report.

----- STATUS REPORT FROM OAKENHOLT

Whilst FSR has featured a two part report on the UFOIN investigation into the Sunderland family CE4 at Oakenholt, north Wales, and Jenny Randles & Paul Whetnall have authored a book (ALIEN CONTACT), to be published in the autumn, events still occur and I want to take this opportunity of mentioning some interesting recent ones. On April 2 Darren saw a "flying cube", in broad daylight. It was grey, moved about lazily and had red lights on each side. Eventually these flew off in all different directions and the cube itself vanished. Darren was distressed by this

event far more than he has been after his many weird meetings with aliens. Eight days later a tiny red ball fell to earth in front of him and floated above an asphalt path. Looking like ball lightning it pulsed several times and then went out. Finally, on April 20, whilst playing in the house, Darren and Barry saw a small "jetplane", coloured black, float across the landing and dematerialise into the wall. Marion, the mother, has continued to see lightballs in the house. Gaynor feels she is being followed, and Barry's entities have communicated that "something big is going to happen soon". We must wait and see!

LOW 8107 February Early am Hexthorpe, Sth Yorks Lev E SUFORS Insuff
Four security officers at a factory saw object moving E-W at 500 ft. Dark shape, not seen with 2 W headlights and 2 R lights. Low humming. In view 3 mins.

MED 77-328 July 19.30 Portpatrick, Scotland Lev B B Gibbons
Man, friend, and man's son, fishing. Saw W oval shape approaching over sea from N. Ireland. 100 ft over water. Gave off vapour at rear. 20 ft in diameter. Came closer and grew V bright. Shielded their eyes and on looking again it had gone. Insuff

MED 8066 Jan 13 19.20 Wykin, Leicstrshire Lev C HAPI Insuff
Woman & husband saw or/red ball moving v. slowly N- NW. Chased it down street and attracted neighbours who saw it move away and pulse in and out several times before fading. In view approximately 3 minutes.

MED 8106 Jan 10 22.00 Lapworth, Warks Lev C UFOSIS Insuff
Two witnesses saw cigar with blue and red light at end and moving orange light along the entire length.

MED 8108 Feb 11 18.00 Goole, N Humberside Lev A SUFORS UFO
Three men closing scrapyard for night saw "headlight" approach over River Case. Hovered over river, wavering, and seen as yellow cone about 40 ft across and 150 ft high. A red glow was underneath and intermittent rays of light were emitted from it to the ground. After 2 mins it shot off at fantastic speed down the river. A guard dog with them was not affected. 5 mins later an RAF Vulcan flew by in the same direction as the object had left. 8108

INST/P 79-149 Dec 31 1979 08.00 Rammoor, S Yorks.
Level A SSPR Report Insuff data

A chartered surveyor saw bright W LITS in sky and tracked it moving from 250 to 280 degrees over 20 mins spell. His wife, son and three daughters were called by him to see it. Through binoculars he saw 2 LITS, about 2 degrees apart. He saw it obscured in turn by trees as the phenomenon moved away N and sank to the horizon. He took a photograph during the sighting and this does show a point of light. Being an amateur astronomer he feels sure it was nothing astronomical. He says it moved too slowly for an aircraft and it travelled against the wind.

THE CALL OF THE UFO Case 7345 Investigated by Bill Gibbons Insuff data

Ian Campbell is a head chef in his late twenties, living with parents at Stran in a house which overlooks Loch Ryan, Galloway, Scotland. One night in June 1973 he awoke for no obvious reason at 04.30 and felt a compulsion to walk to the landing. From the window he saw a phenomenon over the Loch. There were three yellow/orange spheres, side by side, about 20 ft in diameter and 200 ft above the Loch. They were stationary for about 30 seconds and then shot up "at fantastic speed" and vanished. He snapped out of what was like a trance at this point and found his parents standing behind him. They too had woken and felt the compulsion to walk onto the landing! It was a warm, clear night. None of the witnesses believe in UFOs, even now, but they were disturbed by the experience. They have not discussed it with anyone other than themselves.

NO MILK TODAY Case 78-270 Investigated by Bill Gibbons UFO CE1 An

This fascinating incident occurred the same date as the famous Llanerchymedd CE3, which involved animal disturbance, and is in fact the third independant An case that date (readers may recall the other one comes from Berwick on Tweed). At about 19.00 that night many people around Newton Stewart, Galloway, saw a bright yellow light meandering about the sky, but the most interesting experience occurred at 04.30 at Currochtrie Farm near Drummore, where 62 yr old dairyman, Tommy Gibson, was collecting in a herd of cows. He saw two silver/grey ovals coming towards him from the south. They were about 30 ft across and were low. They moved very fast, overhead, and then passed out towards the sea. About 2

minutes later they returned in his direction, now making a strange whirring sound "like a threshing machine". He said, "I wasn't frightened, but somehow I felt very lonely". The cows, however, were frightened, and stampeded through the byre in record time. They refused to give milk for several days afterwards, an unusual event, especially as they are very used to low flying jetplnses from the nearby air base screaming over at all times of day and night! (Note Llanerchymedd's proximity to an airbase!) It was also noted that, that night, 6000 racing pigeons, on a flight from Preston to Ayr (which would have taken them over the area) disappeared without trace. Apparantly not a feather was ever found of them!

PSYCHIC CONTACT REPORTED WITH ENTITY

Case 77-329 NLUFOIG Report

On October 19 1977 there were many UFO sightings around Lancaster (including a UFO which was tape recorded by one witnesses, making a strange noise). Now a man in the city, age 26 at the time, working in a local factory and quite articulate, claims that he had a contact between 7 and 8pm that night (at the height of the various sightings). Gordon Barraclough, Ian Cresswell & Granville Oldroyd have conducted a long investigation and would like comments from readers about this episode, having already received a report from psychologist Carl Grove.

The witness, Malcolm, claims to be very psychic, frequently receiving messages from "spirits" and writing down impressions. He also has seen "ghosts" and had other such experiences. He knows a great deal about Spiritualism and magic, works to finance his "research" in these fields, but has no interest in UFOs, although he did have a LITS experience many years ago.

On the night in question he had had a severe row with his girlfriend, who was in the house at the time but did not see the figure which materialised, although she was with Malcolm whilst he was communicating. The figure "built up" out of "the ether" and was viewed "on several levels" by Malcolm (physically, telepathically and spiritually). Whilst it communicated good intentions, he felt it was "devious" and decided to decline its appeals for future regular contacts.

The figure was about 5½ feet tall, with a dark sea-green skin that was sealey or reptilian. The eyes were the only feature of the face which was visible and these were red with a pink glow. It possibly wore a one piece clothing (he was very un - sure on this point, as with several others, thus creating apparent contradictions from interview to interview) But it had on a round medallion, hung on a chain round its neck. It seems that the figure was only partly formed (he feels it might be that it was 'projected' from elsewhere). It stood quite still during the contact and communicated telepathically.



Malcolm was told that it came from "space", where there are seven "levels". It represented one of these, but not others (other visitors came from there). It wanted, through him, to communicate with mankind and help steer us away from our troubles. It seems Malcolm, with his mistrust, was at least partly responsible for the ending of the contact. When describing the message Malcolm claims he was "blocked", mentally, and felt a constriction in his throat, which prevented him describing it too fully. Carl Grove suggests this might indicate a schizophrenic condition as it is symptomatic of this.

This experience is very difficult both to verify and to categorise. It might have nothing whatsoever to do with UFOs, and the witness could indeed be viewed as psychotic. However, the investigators contend he was very sincere (schizoids, of course, can be) and it is certainly true that it bears parallel with many types of "bedroom visitor" CE4 contact. Consequently, it was felt justified to include this summary, which can be compared with other similar cases (eg a recent "Pluto" contact in BUFORA Journal). On the subject of "Pluto" contacts, note the moderate similitaty between this entity and the one seen by Mrs Lainchbury at Little Lever (see UFOs: A British Viewpoint), which itself claimed to come from Pluto; Comments; psychic, scientific or psychiatric, would be appreciated!

Cases in this issue: 9 Insufficient 6, Poss Schizophrenic 1, UFO 2

Northern UFO News 8 White-throat Wlk Birchwood Cheshire WA3 6PQ £3.60 pa.
